THE PALACE, MYSORE.
25th December 1919.

MY DEAR LORD CHELMSFORD,

I am much obliged for Your Excellency's most welcome letter of the 14th December, and am delighted to learn that you enjoyed your visit to Mysore. Your visit was a real pleasure to me. I hope that I may have the privilege of entertaining you again as my guest.

Your Excellency is good enough to tell me that I may at all times correspond with you freely and frankly on all matters and that any representation that I may make, will always receive Your Excellency's sympathetic consideration. I appreciate this assurance very much and I shall not fail to take advantage, as I do on this occasion, of your kindness whenever necessary.

I refrained from speaking to Your Excellency in person about certain questions affecting my State, not that they were not important or urgent—far from it—but because, I was anxious that you should enjoy your trip to my State in the fullest measure possible, and that you should take back with you none but the pleasantest recollections of your stay, as my honoured and most welcome guest.

Now that your Excellency has gone back and settled down to work again, I feel that I may write and ask for your sympathetic consideration of one or two matters affecting Mysore.

There is, firstly, the question of the Mysore subsidy which is now pending before Your Excellency. Your Excellency will, I know, realise that I am appealing to you, not for any concession for myself, but on behalf of my people, and I have every hope that you will look at the question from a broad point of view. The British Government were magnanimous enough to hand back the State to my grandfather, and for this act of generosity I and my successors will ever be grateful to them. In doing so they fixed a large annual contribution from its people, and it is on behalf of the people of Mysore that I am now appealing to Your Excellency to lighten the financial burden which is weighing heavily on them. And in settling this question, may I beg Your Excellency to take into consideration the fact that the subsidy has been throughout, out of all proportion to the contributions, direct or indirect, made by other States to the Government of India? I believe there is an impression that a reduction of 10½ lakhs would suffice, but I have no hesitation in telling Your Excellency frankly that such a concession would hardly meet the demands of the case, and if the British Government are unable to consider the whole question of subsidies in India and do away with the Mysore subsidy altogether, they may at least reduce it by a substantial

amount retaining only a small sum. The Government of India themselves are, I know, in financial difficulties but Mysore's need is not merely financial, but the prestige and dignity of the State are also involved.

It is indeed a fortunate circumstance for Mysore that the decision of this question lies in the hands of a Viceroy like Your Excellency, in whose sense of justice and fair play I have the greatest confidence, and of a Secretary of State who was so helpful to me in connection with the revision of the Mysore Treaty in 1913, and I feel every confidence that my appeal will not be in vain, and that it will receive the most sympathetic consideration at your and Mr. Montagu's hands. I may mention that I have also approached Mr. Montagu privately, and I believe his attitude is very sympathetic.

As regards the Bhatkal Harbour question, I would request Your Excellency to consider how far it would be really advisable for Mysore to spend its money on the creation of a harbour in British territory, if it exercised absoultely no jurisdiction over the small area required for the purpose. A harbour such as we contemplate would be of immense advantage to the State, but unless jurisdiction is ceded to us, its development will be considerably hampered, and it will not be the success that we confidently hope it will otherwise be. We are more than willing to submit to any reasonable restrictions which the British Government may deem it necessary to impose on us for Military and Naval reasons. All that we are anxious to secure is an outlet to the sea for the development of the trade and commerce of the State, and we feel that no other harbour on the West Coast offers such advantages to us as Bhatkal.

These are the only two questions, which I shall trouble Your Excellency with just now, as deserving of Your Excellency's kind and early consideration.

I trust that Her Excellency Lady Chelmsford is perfectly well again and with warmest regards to Your Excellencies and kindest remembrances

I remain,
Yours very sincerely,
KRISHNARAJA WADIYAR.

HIS EXCELLENCY THE RIGHT HON'BLE
BARON CHELMSFORD, G.C.M.G., G.C.S.I., G.C.I.E., G.B.E., P.C.
Viceroy and Governor-General of India,
New Delhi.